THE GENESEE FARMER.

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N. GOODSELL, EDITOR.

CULTURE OF THE GRAPE.

We have received the following communication from our much respected friend, SOLOMON SOUTHWICK, Esq. of Albany, who informs us that it was one among others intended for the PLOUGH BOY, but which was left unpublished when that valuable paper was discontinued for want of patronage. We ever considered the discontinuance of that Agricultural Journal as a serious loss to the state, but it was not till after it was stopped that its merits were duly appreciated; and although the loss and disappointment sustained by the Editor of that paper were such as would have disgusted many, yet, Mr. SOUTHWICK seems to have forgotten the ingratitude with which his labors were repaid, and is anxious that every thing that he considers useful to the public, as connected with the Plough Boy, should be given to them.

The writer of the article appears to have been among the first who attended to the cultivation of the vine in Saratoga County, but his remarks, we presume, were intended for the European varieties, as at that date little had been published concerning our own native species.

The pamphlets mentioned by Mr. S. in his letter, were duly received, for which he has our thanks.

Saratoga Springs, 22d Feb. 1821.

SIR—The success I have had in raising grapes in this northern climate has induced me to send a copy of the enclosed letter to a Lady in Westchester, who suggested a wish to be acquainted with my method of cultivating the vine. As I am desirous that the culture of that elegant fruit should become more general, I have enclosed the letter to you for publication in the Plough Boy, should you think it would be conducive to the interests of Agriculture.

With respect, Sir,
I am your obed't serv't,
HENRY WALTON.

SOLOMON SOUTHWICK, Esq.

Saratoga Springs, 19th Feb. 1821.

MADAM—As the time approaches for trimming grape vines in the spring, I will no longer delay sending you an account of the method I have pursued in cultivating those in my garden. My experiments have been made at a distance from the seacoast, but I believe that the mode I have adopted will ensure you as abundant a crop of fruit in Westchester, as I usually have had in Saratoga.

I will describe my management of a vine from the first year, or when the scion is planted, until it shall be four years old; after which time, you must be regulated by the strength and situation of the plant, which may induce you to adopt such differences in the mode of pruning and training as circumstances may suggest. The general rules, however, for pruning and training, given for the first year, may be pursued under any situation in which the vine may be placed.

During the first year, I permit the plant to grow with all its branches and leaves; by which means the roots become very much strengthened and increased. In the autumn, as late as possible, I bury all those branches, as well as the old scion, under an inch or two of clean garden mould. Should they be buried even six or eight inches deep, they will not be injured. From the experience I have had, I give a decided preference to burying vines with clean mould. Any other substance, such as straw, matting, or litter, frequently becomes mouldy or heated, which has a very deleterious effect upon the plant. The objects of burying, are to place the vine out of the drying operations of the winter's frosts, and that the frosts which may penetrate the wood may be gradually extracted.—These, I find better effected by mould than by any other substance.

On unburying the vine in the second spring, you trim off all the smaller shoots, leaving one or two of the strongest, with two or three eyes on each. From the product of those eyes you select the strongest shoot in the beginning of the succeeding summer, and rub off the others. The one thus selected must be tied to stakes in as straight a direction as possible, which will increase its growth. It must also be kept clean of false wood, or those shoots which spring up between the main shoot and the foot stalk of the leaf; which, if permitted to remain, will very much check the growth of the main shoot. This latter operation ought to be performed frequently, that the false wood may not become so hard as not to be easily separated by a pressure of the finger and thumb Should the trimming be made while the false wood is still tender, and not exceeding eight inches in length, the wounds will heal immediately, and the bud, *close to which it grows, which is to bear fruit the next summer*, will not be injured. From this main shoot, thus trained and trimmed, you may calculate on a little fruit the next season. In the autumn you may bury the vine as in the preceding year.

In the third spring you unbury the vine and cut the last year's shoot down to where the wood is perfectly alive, leaving as many eyes as possible. After having placed stakes near the root of the vine in a straight line, the last year's shoot is to be tied to them. This method of training I have adopted from the recommendation of Forsyth, who has written a very valuable treatise on the culture of fruit trees and of the vine in England. On his method of cultivating that plant, I have pursued all my experiments. The only differences in our methods are those which arise from the greater heat of our summers, and the necessity of burying our vines in the winter — The first case renders more shade requisite for the ripening the fruit than he proposes, and the second induces the gardener, for conveniency, to keep his plants as low as possible. After the vine is fixed to the stakes and sends forth its shoots, you must select two or three of the strongest of them as bearers for the next year; and those ought to be trained in a straight line and kept clean of false wood. The other shoots should also be kept clean of false wood, but there ought to be left a sufficient quantity of leaves and young shoots, and when necessary, some false wood, to form a natural canopy over the fruit which will protect it from the scorching heat of the sun. I have therefore deviated from the course recommended by Forsyth for trimming the vines in summer, after the fruit has attained the size of peas. I seldom trim them unless the shoots are low or unproductive, and not conducive to the formation of my canopy. In the autumn, the old wood, which has borne fruit the last summer, must be cut down near the places from whence the new bearing wood has shot out, and the plant buried as before.

The treatment of the vine in the fourth year will be similar to the last. It often happens that the lower shoots will not be sufficiently strong to be made the bearers for the succeeding year; in which case some of the upper ones should be selected for that purpose, and in the fall trimming, a few eyes should be preserved on some of the lower shoots, for the purpose of obtaining strong shoots as near the root as possible, for the next year's bearing. In case of success, the old wood must be cut out to the new strong shoots. As the vine, in case it be well cultivated, will increase in strength with its age, the number of bearing shoots may be augmented annually. I have had six bearing shoots on a vine of six year's old, each shoot having about twenty eyes. I think, however, that in case there are twenty or thirty eyes on each shoot, that the number of shoots ought not to exceed eight or ten. In the autumnal trimming, I do not cut close down to the new shoots, but leave five or six inches of wood to be cut off in the spring, as I have discovered that the burying the wood, where a new incision is made, is very apt to cause a defect for a little distance in the wood. The only inconvenience arising from the spring trimming is, the bleeding of the vine. Some people suppose it injurious, but I am sensible that its bad effects are by no means equal to those resulting from a close trimming in autumn, when you are obliged to bury the plant.

The shoots which are intended for bearers for the succeeding year, should be kept, while growing, separated from other plants or branches, in order that they may receive as much air and sun as possible, and thus be ripened and made hard before they are buried, for it is only those parts which are perfectly ripe that will survive the winter.

DEAD SAND.

One of our subscribers wishes us to give some explanation of that part of D. THOMAS' prize essay, contained on the 48th page, where he speaks of "carting in dead sand."

That paragraph, in his article, relates to forming a factitious soil, or so changing the proportions of the materials in it, that they shall be most favorable for such plants as require an open or sandy soil, or changing one from a clay or impervious, to a loose mellow; one which will allow the water to percolate more freely. The term, "dead sand," is generally applied to beach sand, or that dug from pits where it was deposited by water, and where it remains undecomposed, and when applied to stiff soils, has a wonderful effect in rendering them loose and crumbling; so, likewise,

clay, when applied to such soils as are too loose and sandy, has the effect to render it more tenacious, both of which, for garden purposes, are often found very beneficial.

HOPS—*Humulus Cupulus, L.*

The hop is a perennial rooted plant, with an annual, twining, herbaceous top, cultivated for its blossoms, which are extensively used in brewing. The profits attending the cultivation of hops in this country have been variable; at one time the price was fifty cents per pound, since which time they have been sold for five cents. The quantity required for our breweries will ever be limited, and the protecting system of England has prevented their becoming an article for exportation to that country, although the price of them there frequently is as high as one dollar per pound. The soil and climate of much of Western New-York are so well suited to their growth, that were farmers sure of a market, we think that hops might be raised at ten cents per pound, and give as fair a profit as most crops which are cultivated. But even at that reduced price we think our markets would be uncertain. In England, the raising of hops is a regular business, and the profits correspond with those of other kinds of farming operations; but it should be recollected that beer is the common drink of the English—not so in America. Local causes will produce corresponding effects. In England their climate is not favorable for the perfection of those fruits which are used for furnishing common drinks in other countries, as the apple and grape, but both climate and soil are very favorable for the production of barley, more so than in either France or America; and, therefore, their beer is a substitute for the wines of the former and the cider of the latter; and the quantity of beer consumed in England renders hops one of the staple articles of certain districts. In America, the soil and climate are more favorable for producing apples than barley, and a barrel of cider, in most parts, can be purchased for less money than a barrel of beer, and from habit is generally preferred; and the probability is, that the time is not far distant when domestic wines will be used in preference to beer or cider, both as a matter of economy, and as a proof against intemperance. In the cultivation of hops, the farmer should bear all those things in mind, and make his calculations accordingly.

Hops may be cultivated upon almost any soil, but those which are deep, loose and rich, and free from a superabundance of water, are to be preferred. Cultivators vary in opinions as to the distances at which hops should be planted in the hills. Some consider six feet each way between the hills sufficient, while others prefer eight feet.

In preparing cuttings or setts for hop yards, care should be taken to select those varieties only which produce large blossoms or hops.—The cuttings should be taken from those roots which run horizontally near the top of the ground, and are known to gardeners as runners, as they are different from those which are perpendicular, the former having buds or eyes at joints, which the latter have not. These runners may be cut into as many pieces as there are joints, and when buried two or three inches under ground, are as sure to sprout as corn or potatoes.

The first year after planting hop grounds, they may be cropped with potatoes, taking care to place a small stake by each hill to prevent their being disturbed. The second year new grounds will give a small crop, and the third year they may be considered as in perfection. Hop roots, if well taken care of, will continue to produce well from twelve to fifteen years, and half a ton may be considered an average crop per acre.

RAISING GARDEN SEEDS.

The raising of garden seeds for market appears to be entirely overlooked by the farmers of Western New-York; and yet we think that the wholesale prices in New-York are such, that if proper attention was paid to it, few agricultural pursuits would afford a greater profit. Among the leading articles in the seed business, beet, carrot, onion, radish, cabbage and cucumber seeds form very important items, and sales, to any reasonable amount, might be effected in our large towns annually. The following may be considered as fair wholesale prices, viz: beets of sorts, one dollar; carrots of sorts, one dollar; onions, one dollar; radish, seventy-five cents; cabbage, one dollar and fifty cents; cucumber, one dollar and fifty cents. We are of opinion that one acre of suitable ground, planted with choice varieties of either the above named plants, and well taken care of, would give in ordinary seasons a net profit of one hundred dollars per acre. Were we to make a mathematical calculation upon the produce of either the above named articles, it would so far exceed the avails of common farming operations, that we should be considered fanatics. One thousand pounds of beet seed would not be a great yield from an acre, and yet, few would calculate that the cost of setting the plants, hoeing, gathering the seed, and sending it to market would cost five hundred, or even two hundred and fifty dollars. Onion seed sells as readily as wheat, and there is scarcely a year passes without some complaints about the scarcity of cucumber seeds. Now if such farmers as are well informed as to the most valuable varieties of the above named plants, and the best method of managing them for seed, would occasionally devote a little time to their cultivation, we are confident they would find themselves amply remunerated.

STRAWBERRIES.

In our last number was an article from our friend, D. T., on planting strawberries, which will be found interesting to gardeners. To that we would add our own observations for the past season. We planted out strawberries from August to the last of October, and, as might be expected, those planted early did best; but there was a very great difference with those which were planted in October. Those planted on dry, firm soil have endured the winter comparatively well, while those planted on loose, vegetable mould have been almost entirely thrown out by the winter, or rather the spring, frosts. A short time before the setting in of winter, in moving some dirt, we covered up a number of plants, which remained in that situation until the second week in April, when we uncovered them, and found them in better condition than those adjoining them. At the breaking up of winter, we had occasion, in regulating a water course, to cover up one part of a row, which remained covered until last week, and when uncovered we found them in good condition, more so than those in the same row which were left uncovered. Hence, we would infer, that strawberries should be planted out as soon as the middle of September, and if upon loose, vegetable soil, that it may be well to cover them with litter, or even with the same soil; but whether the soil is loose or compact, it is undoubtedly advisable to have it packed very close about the roots. The distribution of the Methven strawberry by Messrs. Buel and Prince through this western country, has given an entirely new impulse to their cultivation; and as they increase with great rapidity, we may expect that every garden will soon be supplied with this early, wholesome, delicious fruit.

TIME FOR IMPROVEMENTS.

The author of *Leisure Moments*, in our last, makes one observation which should be remembered by every young farmer in our country. He says, "*I find on employing my leisure moments that I have more than I was aware of,*" that is, when he had resolved to apply what had been considered as such before, he found the time to exceed his expectation. Now the reading of this simple sentence will be worth more to young farmers, than the reading of all the novels from Walter Scott down to the most insipid that can be endured. When once a farmer has firmly resolved to devote regularly a certain proportion of time to mental or other improvements, without breaking upon the ordinary course of business, he will find, like Ytus, "that he has more leisure time than he was aware of;" and he may still add resolve upon resolve, and yet have time to spare to resolve upon further improvements.

PEACH TREES.

At this season of the year, those who would preserve their peach trees should remove the dirt away from the crown, leaving the roots near the body bare for several inches, and clean the bark from all gum which may have exuded from the body near the surface; in doing which, many white worms or grubs may be found in the bark. In the course of a few days, examine them again, and if any worms have escaped the first examination, the fresh dust thrown out by them will point out the place of their operations, when they may be dug out with the point of a knife, and destroyed. After the stem is entirely freed from them, replace the dirt about the roots, treading it close, and raising it a little above the surrounding surface, in order that it may be the more easily removed in the next operation, which should be repeated semi-annually.

Examine trees that were budded last fall, and where they have taken well, cut off the stock above them.

THE SEASON.

From the first to the middle of this month, the weather has been uncommonly dry in this neighborhood. During the first week we had clear, pleasant days, but severe, frosty nights, which, together with the dry days, we feared would injure the wheat crops. As many of our good farmers, in such a case, would make use of the roller, we hope to hear from them; and if any have made the experiments by rolling a part of the crop, and leaving a part withal, we shall be glad to learn the result, that it may be given to the public.

AN EVENING AT JUDGE BUEL'S.

The Editor of the New-York Farmer recently visited Judge Buel, and has given to the public the information he obtained during an evening's conversation with that gentleman, who probably is not excelled in our country as a scientific and practical Farmer. We make the following selections from the New-York Farmer:

To Protect Plants.—The method which Mr. Buel adopts to protect his young plants that are liable to be injured by insects, is to nail four pieces of thin boards or shingles, in the form of a square or oblong, and of convenient breadth. These are covered with cheap millinet. Thus made, it is put over the plant, and by being pressed into the soil, serves not only to keep off winged insects from the leaves, but also those worms or grubs that crawl on the surface. If one side of the frame is lower or pressed down into the soil deeper than the other, and placed toward the south, more sun is admitted.—The millinet is taken off of the frames, washed, and put away for another season.

Preserving Turnips.—It is not uncommon when turnips are buried to have them sprouted in the spring, before it is convenient to take them out. This is prevented by making a small hole through the covering of the pit, with a crow-bar or similar instrument, to let the confined and heated air escape.

The Dibble.—This is a very useful little cheap implement. It is generally made like the upper half of a shovel handle sharpened to a point. It is used for transplanting. After a little practice, a person will use it with great facility, and set out a very great number of plants in a short time.

Transplanting.—Mr. B. is in the habit of sowing in beds and transplanting a great many kinds of plants and vegetables. When taken out of the beds, the roots are immediately put into a mixture of soil and water—so thick as to adhere to the roots. They are then transplanted, with the aid of the dibble, at any time of the day, and in any weather. Should it be dry, they will require watering the first night. The advantages of sowing in beds and transplanting are, that the plants are more easily protected from insects, can be brought forward earlier, require less labor to keep out weeds, and are put into fresh ground at the time favorable for a healthy growth.

Iron Plough.—this is entirely of wrought iron. It is sold by Mr. Smith, seedsman, Broadway, New-York. Mr. Buel considers it a good article; it turns a more uniform and handsomer furrow than others. It costs between 20 and 30 dollars, and is of course very durable.

Potatoe Hook.—This is an implement having three or four tines, wider than those of a dung-fork, and nearly at right angles to the handle. Those who have many potatoes to dig, will find a convenience and profit in using it in preference to the hoe.

Drill Barrow.—When any considerable quantity of seeds are to be sown in drills, the drill barrow is a saving in the seeds, and expedites the work, independent of the advantages of a greater regularity, and consequently a more uniform and healthy growth of the plants.

Peach Pits are saved in the fall, and put away over winter, in boxes mixed with earth, to keep them from getting dry and hard.—Pits that have been drying all winter, will seldom sprout the first spring, unless the shell is cracked. It is customary with nurserymen to plant them without the shells.—These are often sown in beds and transplanted.

Salt.—The salt manufactured at Syracuse and Onondaga put up in baskets, or in sugar-loaf form, is a most beautiful and snow-white article. Its purity makes it a valuable article for butter.

To protect plants from frost.—It often happens that frosts appear in April or May when vegetation is considerably advanced. By having a few square frames, and a number of sashes with four panes of glass to fit the frames, many thousand plants, in beds particularly, may be easily protected. These frames answer to protect and force early sowings, and keep off insects.

Preserving Strawberries.—Mrs. B. gives the following directions. For every pound of berries take 1 of sugar. Dissolve the sugar in water over the fire. Skim off the impurities that rise. When boiling hot, scald a few berries at a time—take them out, and put them into a tumbler or small jar. Thus continue, until all are scalded—putting only a few into one vessel or jar in order to keep them whole. Boil down the syrup and poar it on the berries.

Rhubarb Pies.—Adjoining the barn, Mr. Buel has three barrels without heads, placed over three rhubarb plants. The tops of the barrels are covered with boards, and over the whole, and on all sides, stable manure is placed. About the 25th of March, these three plants will fill the barrel with well blanched leaves, which will continue to grow and furnish sufficient for 50 to 100 pies.—These pies, when eaten cold, are very much like in flavor, to those made of gooseberries. Every farmer could, without trouble or expense, provide himself with them. Tavern keepers should not neglect to obtain the rhubarb.

Willows absorb moisture.—An insiance was related, where fruit trees were in bad condition from the sub-soil retaining too much wet. The planting of willow trees near them was followed by a restoration to health. It is supposed the roots might have absorbed the superabundance of moisture.

To Preserve Eggs.—I was shown the contents of an egg which was laid last May. The yolk and the white were in apparently fresh and bright condition as they were nine months ago. While in a fresh state they are put in lime water. Lime that has been used for white-washing is very suitable. It is not so caustic as recently slacked lime, and consequently does not corrode the shell. The whole contents of the white-wash pail, with the addition of a sufficient quantity of water, should be put into a wooden tub or firkin containing the eggs. The business of preserving eggs would well compensate the trouble and expense. In the month of April and May they can be bought for 12½ cents a dozen, and in the winter sold from 18¾ to 37½ per dozen.

Paintings of Fruit.—Mr. Buel's study or sitting room is decorated with near one hundred beautiful paintings of the best varieties of apples, pears, plums, strawberries, and cherries—all in neat frames. The paintings are the productions of the young members of his family—painted in rainy days, long evenings, or as a recreation from other pursuits. They were either drawn from the splendid paintings of the Pomological Magazine, and other British works, or from the fruit itself. The paintings are made by formulas, with only a few days instruction.—When taken from the fruit, the size of the apple or pear is first marked on the paper.—This method of painting is very easily learned, is very expeditious, and, with familiarity with the natural object itself, is favorable to correct and tasty execution.

COMPARISON.

In Loudon's Agriculture is the following for the month of April:

"*Kalendar of Vegetable Nature round London.*—In the first week, the daffodil, (narcissus pseudo narcissus) the garden hyacinth, (hyacinthus orientalis) the wall flower, (cheiranthus cheiri) the cowslip, (primuli officinalis) the periwinkle, (vinca) in flower.

These were all in flower in this vicinity previous to the fifteenth, so that the difference between Loudon's Floral Calendar at London, and ours at Rochester, is not more than seven days.

INQUIRY.

We often hear farmers complain that their potatoes which they buried have rotted very much in consequence of being frozen, although they were covered very thick with earth. On the contrary, we find potatoes which remain in the ground in the hills through the winter, come out fresh and sound in the spring, although there is every reason to believe from their depth they must have been frozen. Now, is the rotting of potatoes when buried in large heaps to be attributed to frost, or some other cause?

Wayne County.—The following is from the Lyons Countryman, of which paper Myron Holley, Esq. is editor: "We have received the proceedings of the Convention, held at Albany last winter, which resulted in the organization of a State Agricultural Society. And we are gratified to find our name included in the General Committee to promote the objects of the Association. The institution in our opinion may be useful.—And we shall consequently be proud to serve it, as far as we are able. In obedience to one of its resolutions, recommending "the formation of County Societies, for the promotion of agriculture, horticulture, and the household arts," we have drawn up a subscription paper, of which the intention is to call a meeting of the friends of such an association for the purpose of constituting a society in Wayne County. We invite such persons in all the towns of this county as feel an interest in this subject, to authorize us to put their names to the subscription paper and publish it next week."

Monroe County.—We learn with pleasure, that it is in contemplation to call a meeting soon to form an Agricultural Society for this county.

The Culture of Silk at Poor Houses.—Mr. R. W. Haskins of Buffalo invites the attention of the Superintendents of the Poor of Erie County, to the propriety of employing the county poor in the rearing of the mulberry tree and the culture of silk. Mr. H. thinks "no employment could be more light and amusing for the unfortunate inmates of that institution than the rearing of the silk worm; while the profits will far exceed those of any other pursuit requiring the same investment of capital."

COMMUNICATIONS.

FOR THE GENESEE FARMER.

TOUR FROM BUFFALO TO PHILADELPHIA.

I propose, Mr, Editor, to devote an evening or two in giving you a short sketch of a very pleasant tour which I took last summer from Buffalo to Philadelphia; which, although not strictly adapted to the plan of your paper, will, I hope, contain some few notes on the Agriculture of the country through which I passed, that may not be altogether unacceptable to your readers. If so, I shall not have written you in vain.

On the 2d day of August, my companion and self left Buffalo, and passed through the counties of Erie, Genesee, Livingston and Ontario, to Geneva. To name the particular towns through which we rode, and give an account of the country through this delightful garden of the state, would be only to describe what has been a thousand times done, and give but a faint outline of what most all your readers have long been familiar with. I can say, however, that the whole way, all around, was crowned with abundance as far as the eye could reach. The wheat harvest had been good, although attended with much bad weather; and many hundreds of acres along our journey were yet ungathered in the field. The last summer, you well recollect, was exceedingly wet. The corn was in its deepest luxuriance, promising a most abundant harvest. Many meadows had been shorn of a heavy growth of grass, and some were yet waiting for the scythe. The fruit trees were bending under their rich burthens, and the whole exhibited that deep and full luxuriance for which Western New-York has long been celebrated.

I do not know that every one who travels this country has marked the peculiar characters of its general scenery. To an ordinary observer, travelling the great western road from Utica to Buffalo, nothing in particular may strike the eye, except a fertile country, handsomely undulating, thickly settled with comfortable, and in many instances, elegant farm houses, surrounded by well cultivated farms, and a plentiful sprinkling of beautiful, fresh looking, well built villages. Even this, one would think, ought to be sufficient to satisfy the eye and mind of any lover of nature and his own species. These are its general features. No mountains with huge craggy sides mounting up to the sky, denoting grandeur and sterility, meet the eye; no broad rolling rivers, whose annual overflowings sweep a path of desolation through the valleys, cross his path. These, which unite to form the sublime and magnificent, do not exist; but a luxuriant softness every where meets the eye, which significantly informs the intelligent traveller that it is eminently the country of the farmer, and the abode of plenteousness.

Whoever has stood upon that quiet hill on the east Bank of the Genesee at Avon, facing the west, and cast his eye far and wide over that broad land of loveliness and beauty which encompasses the Genesee valley, taking in at one view a vast circuit of field and forest, hill and dale, hamlet and village, and not joy within his heart that he is an American, and devoutly thank his God that his lot is cast in view of such a rich inheritance. How luxuriant to the eye appear those vast meadows and corn fields on the deep alluvions of the river, which, for uncounted years, have thrown out a vegetation of surpassing fertility! Yet this is but one of a thousand prospects, equally imposing, in Western New-York. The traveller, as he stands at Eggleston's, in West Bloomfield, and throws his vision over the extended hills and valleys that stretch away to the east, north and west, through the counties of Ontario, Monroe and Livingston, beholds a delightfully diversified landscape, and a well cultivated country, yielding to the husbandman a glorious harvest. Of some of these towns I believe it may with safety be said, that there is not a foot of waste land in them. Without intending to be at all invidious, I will here observe, that in my estimation, the town of Lima in the county of Livingston, for a pleasing undulation of surface, fertility of soil, general capacity for agriculture, evenness of population, proximity to its schools, village and churches, and for all the main purposes of rural life, is the finest town I ever saw.

But I must hasten on my journey. Leaving Geneva at two o'clock in the morning, we passed through the farming towns of Fayette and Varick before daylight, and the sun arose upon us at Romulus. The surface of these towns is rather too level, but bearing great quantities of grass and grain. The county of Seneca is a fine wheat country. We breakfasted at Ovid, a pretty village in sight of Seneca Lake. The surface of this town is more rolling, and the farms have a fine, fertile appearance. The road to Ithaca next carried us through Covert, lying on the west shore, in full view of Cayuga Lake. I should think this the best town of the county, being mostly high, rolling land. Excellent farms, under good cultivation, with good buildings, are every where seen, fully equal to the finest agricultural neighborhoods of Ontario or Livingston. The scenery, too, in many parts, is delightful. Fine stocks of bees were often seen, indicating thrift and household comforts. The town of Ulysses, by which we enter into Tompkins county, is not so fertile, the surface being more broken by ravines, and the soil inclining to a lighter clay and gravel. It is, however, well settled and cultivated, and has a thriving appearance. Descending into the deep valley of the Cayuga, by a road which winds along the abrupt side of a mountain, a most delightful view is presented of the Lake, and its upper valley, winding away to the south and west; the picturesque cascade of Fall Creek, as it tumbles down the opposite mountain, and close under its base, the bright and handsome village of Ithaca. The eye of the enthusiast, even, standing on that hill, may truly gaze on the landscape with rapture. A broad, fertile valley lies before him. A far off mountain stretches away in the distance, meeting the very heavens far off in the south. The sweet silver lake, as it lay reposing in its deep bosom of the hills, reflected in dark shadow the high banks and lofty forests around it; and the village, nestled in the hollow of that quiet landscape, with its numerous steeples glittering in the sun, and mingling with the shade of trees thickly planted over it, as it was seen through the soft haze of an August afternoon, seemed like loveliness itself. The high waterfall near the lake, suspending for a hundred feet in height a sheet of living foam, with its far off roar faintly falling on the ear, filled up the most charming picture I ever beheld.

Our stay in this flourishing village was short. While dinner was preparing, we took a walk through some of its principal streets, which are well built up, and lined with flagged side walks. What particularly arrested my attention, was the exceeding neatness and taste in laying out and ornamenting the public squares. These grounds are enclosed, laid out in walks, and judiciously planted with trees, consisting of elm, maple, buttonwood, weeping willow, &c. These, though young, were very thrifty, and a few years more care will render them of great utility and ornament. Around this pleasure ground are the principal public buildings, churches, hotel, &c. In no western village have I met with so well regulated public grounds; and the people of Ithaca merit special commendation for their public spirit and good taste. This place promises much for the future. It has an appearance of great enterprise, and considerable wealth. Its local position at the head of Cayuga Lake, by which it communicates with the Erie Canal, and in the midst of a valuable and improving country, with a vast water power at immediate command, which it appears to be rapidly improving, must ere long make it a town of great importance.

From Ithaca we ascended by a long, tedious hill, of some three miles in extent, on to the high table land which divides the waters of the St. Lawrence from the Susquehannah. The country now assumes altogether a different character from that north of the Cayuga valley. The long, sweeping lines of the hills, and the deep valleys irrigated by rapid streams, which are fed by numerous springs; its high elevation, lower temperature, hardier vegetation, and healthy appearance, denote it as the country of grass, of the dairy, and of stock. Many fine farms adjoin the the road. Substantial and comfortably looking houses are frequently seen, accompanied by good out buildings, and well sheltered by orchards.—Though not possessed of so rich a soil as the wheat counties, a large share of the county of Tompkins, a part of Tioga, through which we passed, is good land, occupied by an industrious, hardy yeomanry. Pine timber now begins to be abundant, great quantities of which are cut up for foreign markets, and which is usually deposited for rafting at Owego. Tioga I should consider a far less valuable farming county than Tompkins, being more broken with high, precipitous hills, which, in many instances, shoot up almost into mountains. The surplus of all this region is principally timber. The county is well watered, and the inhabitants universally enjoy high health.

Owego, the half-shire of this county, is prettily located on a large plain on the north bank of the Susquehannah, a few miles from the Pennsylvania line. As we approached it in the evening, we had no opportunity of viewing its immediate vicinity. The next morning, a few hour's leisure gave us an opportunity to view the village, in company with our attentive and intelligent friend Judge B., who resides there. The principal street lies along the bank of the river, which is a large, beautiful stream. The principal business of the place is done upon this street, which employs many stores, and above and below the centre of the village are many elegant, well built, private residencies, among which, are those of the Messrs. Pumpelly, L. A. Burrows, Esq. and many others. About a mile below the village, at the mouth of

Owego creek, are several hundred acres of fine alluvial bottoms, bearing great crops of corn, wheat, oats and grass, belonging principally to inhabitants of the village. The public buildings are handsome, and as usual with the villages of Western New-York, it has several churches. I noticed several good gardens here, and a tolerable supply of fruit. It is not so abundant, however, as in the northern counties, and the peach is rarely if ever cultivated. The locust tree is much cultivated for ornament; but the worm which bores the wood has in many instances made great havoc with them. This, altogether is a beautiful tree. Its delicate branches have a charming appearance, while its luxuriant foliage makes a dense, cool shade. When not exposed to high winds, which are apt to break off its branches, and in early, warm positions, it can be highly recommended as forming a pleasant shade, and easily supplied.—(*To be continued.*) ULMUS.

FOR THE GENESEE FARMER.

Steeping Seed Corn in Copperas Water no security against Wire Worms—Tarring Seed Corn recommended as a security against Crows, &c.

It does not appear that any means are yet known by which the corn crop can be secured from the mischievous effects of the wire worm. For several years, the farming community have been tantalized with the hope and expectation that this might be done by certain preparations of the seed. That of steeping the seed in a solution of copperas has been most relied on. Several publications have appeared in different volumes of the New England Farmer, encouraging the expectation, that this would afford the desired security. That such a preparation, by rendering the seed unpalatable to the worm, might operate as a security so far as related to the seed itself, did not appear unlikely. But when it was considered that the wire worm operated not only on the seed, but also on the blade or plant, and continued its operations till mid-summer, it was not easy to account for the effect attributed to such a preparation of seed. Although the seed itself might by this means be secured, yet, it was not to be expected that much good, would result from this, if the insect were to be present, and ready to prey upon and devour the plant in all the early stages of its growth. That poisoning the seed would impregnate the plant so as to give it a disrelish to insects, appeared quite improbable. Although my own reasoning on the subject presented these discouragements, yet, having suffered severely by the wire worm, I availed myself of the first opportunity, after hearing the suggestion, to try the experiment. My experiments were prosecuted during three successive years, closing in the year 1830. The first season no satisfactory results were produced, for my corn, in that season, was all in one field, and on a part of my farm where the wire worm had not been known to operate. One part of the field was planted with prepared seed; the other with seed unprepared. Both were alike uninjured by the wire worm. The next season I planted on another part of the farm, and on a different soil, where it was known the wire worm inhabited, and where crops had previously been injured by it. My seed was prepared as before, by steeping it twenty-four hours in a solution of copperas, formed by dissolving one pound of copperas in a sufficient quantity of water to cover half a bushel of seed. In addition to this, the seed was tarred and plastered as will be described hereafter.—The result of this experiment was a complete failure, the crop being nearly ruined by the wire worm. The next year, that is, the third of my experiments, it was desirable to plant with corn a small piece of ground which was suspected to be densely inhabited by wire worms. In other respects, the soil was excellent for the corn crop. Considering it as possible that I had not been thorough enough in my former experiments, I concluded to try again, and be more thorough.—I now added considerably to the strength of my copperas solution, and steeped the seed fifty hours. After this, the seed was thoroughly tarred and plastered as before. The result of this experiment was disastrous in the extreme But very few hills in the whole piece, containing nearly an acre, escaped the ravages of the wire worm.—The crop was scarcely worth harvesting. The seed, in general, came up well, though not without some exceptions. If the preparation afforded any protection to the seed itself, it was but a partial one; for I dug down to the seed in several hills, and in some instances, found the worm actually engaged in devouring the seed kernel. Here closed, probably forever, my experiments for protecting the corn crop from the wire worm, or any other worm, by means of any preparation that can be given to the seed. I have thus given my experiments truly, together with their results, all which is respectfully submitted to the judgment of the farming community. If the time ever was, when I placed confidence in any preparation of seed corn, as a protection against worms, I have now lost all that confidence. And my only inducement to publish this article is, to save my brethren of the farming class from useless trouble and expense.

Neither do I place much confidence in any preparations of seed corn, the object of which is, to give to the crop better thrift, and secure a more abunbant produce. Steeping the seed in a solution of nitre has been recommended as a means of improving the crop. Several experiments, long since prosecuted by myself, did not appear to produce the expected results. Such preparations, after a few unsuccessful experiments, were of course discontinued. I am now ignorant of any preparation, of which seed corn is susceptible, by which a better growth can be secured to the crop.

Although it is believed no preparation of seed corn will avail as a protection against worms, or contribute materially to the improvement of the crop, yet there is a preparation that, with a view to another object, may be given to it to great advantage. That is tarring the seed; and the object is, to secure it from crows, hens, black birds, and all others of the feathered tribe. I have practised preparing my seed corn in this manner for more than thirty years; and think I have not failed of doing it, except in two instances, during that length of time. When I did fail, I had abundant cause to repent of my negligence. I can recommend this as an effectual security against all manner of fowls that have been known to disturb corn fields. I have never known any serious injury to be done by fowls of any description, on a field planted with the seed prepared in this manner. I have known crows to light on a field so planted, and take up a few hills of corn; but as the food did not suit their relish, they soon quit it, and flying off, uttered tones expressive of great resentment. I have known hens to do the same; but in no such case was the injury of any serious amount. Fowls are frequently very mischievous in corn fields and gardens that lie within their range; and on that account, it is sometimes considered as unsafe to plant corn on such locations; but if the seed be well tarred, it may be planted any where with entire safety, so far as relates to the fowls. By preparing my seed in this manner, I have for many years saved myself from all the trouble, vexation and damage which the corn planter so frequently experiences, by the visitations of crows, hens, black birds, &c. I have had no occasion to put up scare crows in my corn fields; nor have I done such a thing for more than thirty years. Nor has it at any time been necessary to set a watch about my fields to drive off winged depredators. I can assure my farming brethren, that the object is not a trifling one. I consider such a preparation of seed corn as almost indispensable; and were I about to plant only a few quarts of seed, rather than fail of tarring it, I should subject myself to expense and trouble of sending abroad several miles for tar. This I have done in several instances.

Presuming that it will be gratifying to some to be informed of my process in tarring seed corn, I will give a statement of it in detail. In the first place, if I have a considerable quantity of seed to prepare, I supply myself with an apparatus. This consists of a kettle or tub to hold the seed, a small iron kettle, skillet or spider for the tar, a basket, a stirring stick, and a small quantity of plaster or ashes. These things being ready, and the corn having been put into the kettle or tub provided for it, the next process is to pour upon it warm water. I have applied boiling water, without any detriment to the seed; but I prefer using it at a temperature considerably below the boiling state. The object of this is merely to render the corn so warm as to prevent the tar from stiffening during the subsequent operations. Having remained in this situation a few minutes, the water and corn together are turned into a basket. This is done for the purpose of draining off the water. After draining, the corn is put back into the kettle or tub in which it was before, and is then ready to receive the tar. The tar, having been warmed sufficiently to reduce it to a fluid state, is then applied in small quantities at a time, the operator making free use of the stirring stick. The process is continued by pouring on tar, and stirring, until all the corn is thoroughly daubed with tar. The closing process is that of applying plaster, ashes, or lime. Plaster is the best, and is probably of some use in giving better thrift to the crop. The object of this application is to correct the cohesion occasioned by the tar. One of these substances is applied, and by stirring, intermixed with the corn, until the whole mass is entirely cured of its cohesiveness. After this, the corn can be planted with as little inconvenience as if nothing had been done to it. A peck of seed is as large a quantity as will be found convenient to operate upon at any time. It should be noticed here, that this preparation does not protect seed from hogs, pigs, squirrels, or mice. It is useful only as a protection against damages by the feathered family. This is an important object. The process of tarring is simple, and easily performed. But a small quantity of tar is re-

quired, about one quart being sufficient for a bushel of seed. The tar, however, should not be applied sparingly. No injury, to my knowledge, has ever been done to seed, by applying to it too much tar.

I intended, in connection with this subject, to make some remarks on the prize essay on the culture of corn, published in the Genesee Farmer, No. 2, Vol. 2. But my subject having led me to so great a length, I shall omit it, only cautioning the farming community not to be too hasty in adopting the theory of that essay in so much as relates to low planting, that is, planting deep beneath the surface of the soil.

DAN BRADLEY.

Marcellus, April 12, 1832.

FOR THE GENESEE FARMER.

ASPARAGUS.

Middlesex, April 10th, 1832.

Mr. Goodsell.—In your paper of the 24th of March, I noticed some remarks of Ulmus on the subject of asparagus, which met my approbation entirely. The idea of underlaying an asparagus bed with stone, and other popular prejudices on this subject, so properly ridiculed by Ulmus, I think needed some correction, and Ulmus has applied the proper corrective. But I remark that he uses his rake tail for marking his beds. Now this practice appears to me susceptible of some improvement. Take a piece of two inch oak plank, three feet long and three inches wide, divide it into three equal divisions, and bore it with a three quarter auger, and insert three teeth of six or seven inches long; then turn it on the side and bore a hole with a five quarter auger near the middle, in which insert a handle about six feet long, and your marking rake is ready for use. This simple and cheap instrument is more expeditious than any other tool that I have ever known. If it be desirable to draw the bed into squares, you have only to draw this marking rake lengthwise of the bed, then cross the long marks by raking it across the bed, and the work is done correctly. I have usually made use of three rakes of this kind, one with the teeth six inches apart, one nine, and the other twelve, and found them very convenient and useful. Ulmus says he gathers asparagus the second year from the seed.—This is one year sooner than I have been able to do so. I usually begin to cut the third year; but have not been able to cut very fine asparagus until the fifth or sixth year, after which I believe it will continue to improve yearly for fifty years or more, yielding every spring a plentiful supply of the true *fort slasser* asparagus so feelingly described by Ulmus' neighbor. Yours, &c.

R. M. W.

FOR THE GENESEE FARMER.

FICTITIOUS SIGNATURES.

Middlesex, April 10th, 1832.

Mr. Goodsell—In your paper of the 31st of March, I noticed some remarks of Dan Bradley, on the subject of fictitious signatures. I differ somewhat from Mr. Bradley on this subject.—When we treat upon the simple operations of husbandry and gardening, it can not be improper to use our own signatures; but when we attack and ridicule popular errors or abuses, then I think a fictitious signature is best. Had Ulmus used his own signature in his two last communications, it might have subjected him to some hostility from the persons alluded to.

But as it is the absurdity only that is pointed out and held up to ridicule, while no individual is pointed to particularly, the evil is corrected and nobody harmed, besides the authority of a name may perhaps shield error from detection and exposure. For my part, I am perfectly contented to receive truth from Ulmus under his fictitious signature. Yours, &c. R. M. W.

FOR THE GENESEE FARMER.

Leisure Moments, Number Seven.

BENEFITS OF SYSTEM.

"He who every morning plans the transactions of the day, and follows out that plan, carries on a thread which will guide him through the labyrinth of the most busy life. The orderly arrangement of his time is like a ray of light, which darts itself through all his affairs. But where no plan is laid, where the disposal of time is surrendered merely to the chance of incidents, all things lie huddled together in one chaos, which admits neither of distribution nor review."—*Blair.*

Among all the active operations of life, the want of system is no where more apparent than among farmers. Every day is suffered to take care of itself with them, and the trouble and perplexity occasioned thereby, is seldom attributed to its true source. For want of proper management, their business drives them, and of course, their work, in such cases, can be but half-done. This is one reason why we have so many bad farmers. If we cast our eyes to other branches of business, the manufactory for instance, we see much more order and regularity. The hours of labor are allotted to each, and every person engaged acts his apportioned part. All goes on regularly, and though much more complex than farming, is generally conducted with less irregularity and trouble. Now these things ought not so to be. Farmers should conduct all their business with the most scrupulous exactness.

I complain not of those things which are considered of radical importance, (and really are so) such as rotation of crops, and the like—but shall confine myself at present to what are considered the minor duties of a farmer, and for this very reason are overlooked and neglected. Oh, this is but a trifle, a mere nothing—and that is a trifle, and so on, and because it is a little thing it is despised. But let us remember that

"Sands form the mountains, moments make the year,"

and that the greater part of life is made up of little events; indeed, the great changes in life frequently owe their birth to some little adventitious circumstance—never a man came to the gallows but that the first step was a small one—and most bankrupts are made such by despising little things.

If man would read the page of nature, she would teach him a salutary lesson on this subject. We see the utmost order and harmony, not only in the grand system of systems, where "worlds on worlds in phalanx deep" perform their regular evolutions, but also in the smaller things of creative wisdom is seen the most perfect order and nicety. The smallest insect that the most powerful microscope can present to our view is so complete in its various parts, as to silence, one would think, every doubt of the sceptic. And the minutest plant is so perfect in its organization, that the hand of design is visible in every part. Let us, then, my fellow farmers, learn a lesson. We behold nature perfectly systematic in all her operations, let us follow her example.

Firstly, I would have every member of the family rise precisely at the same hour every morning by means of a bell or some other signal. The benefits arising from such a course, both to health, and in the saving of time, are inconceivable. A morning scene, in the houses of some who pretend to be farmers, is enough to put every real farmer to the blush. The first thing to be heard (and that after the sun has made his appearance above the horizon, and the birds have offered up with inimitable sweetness their matin hymn,) is "boys!" Jim snores; "boys" is again vociferated. Sam turns over; and Bill, as if half asleep and half awake, grunts out "zur?" "Come, come, why dont you get up?" cries the good man of the house, "the sun is an hour and a half high this minute,—and that plaguy old sow broke into the corn field last night, and let in all the shoats, and old broad tore down the fence and got into the garden," (where, by the by, he could do little mischief) "Jim, why did'nt you turn them are oxen down into the big pasture as I told you to last night?" Jim continues to snore.—"Come, Sam, get up and turn out them are hogs and stop up the hole." The reader can judge from such an introduction of the day what the sequel will prove, and I will not detain him by rehearsing it.

Secondly. I would have each one's portion of the chores allotted to him, even to building fires in the morning. By this means, nothing will be neglected by one's leaving it for the other to perform, nor any time lost in telling one another what is to do, and asking what has been done.—In addition to this, they will be done much better, for where one has the exclusive charge of cattle, horses, sheep, or any thing of the kind, he takes more care to keep them in a thriving condition.

Thirdly. I would have breakfast, dinner, and supper at particular stated hours each day.

Fourthly. I would have the same regulations in regard to retiring at night as rising in the morning.

Fifthly. I would have a certain portion of each day allotted to labor, and a certain portion to study and reading.

Sixthly. "A place for *every* thing, and *every* thing in its place," should be every farmer's motto. More is frequently lost in looking after a tool than it is worth.

Lastly. Undertake no more than you can do well and do in season. If you have more land than you can manage in this manner, sell a part of it and put your money at interest. Yrus.

FOR THE GENESEE FARMER.

New Haven, April 7th, 1832.

Mr. Goodsell—In your paper of the 24th ult. there is a published letter of Lindley Murray, which I never saw till last evening. I have only to inform you that it contains an entire mistake, as to the causes of my dissatisfaction with the writer. My conversation must have been misunderstood or misreported. In my published works, the facts are fairly stated, and I have the evidence to prove them; it is therefore needless to take farther notice of the letter, or any remarks to which it may give rise. N. WEBSTER.

DIRECTIONS

FOR SOWING THE SEED, AND REARING THE PLANTS OF THE WHITE MULBERRY TREE.

Prepared in pursuance of a Resolution of the New-York State Agricultural Society.

1. Prepare a piece of good garden soil, by digging and pulverizing it. Lay it out into beds, three or four feet broad, and rake it off smooth. Do this early in May.

2. With a hoe, stick, or other instrument, proceed to make shallow drills across the bed thus prepared, from 12 to 15 inches apart, and scatter the seed in the drills as thick as you would onion or parsnip seed, then cover half an inch with fine mold, and press it moderately down with a hoe; or, when the first drill is sown and covered, place upon it a narrow strip of board, and stand upon this board to sow the second drill, upon which, when sown, place the board in like manner, and sow the third drill, and proceed thus until the whole is completed. The pressure of the earth upon the seeds is to bring it in close contact with them, that they may be kept moist, and germitate readily. If the weather be dry, or the soil very light, an occasional watering at evening will be beneficial.

3. The only further care required the first season, will be to keep the ground free from weeds, and the soil moderately loose.

4. Strong plants of one year's growth may be transplanted in April into nursery rows; or the whole may be left to grow a second summer, in the seed bed; the ground, as before, being kept free from weeds, and occasionally stirred.

5. After two summers growth, all the strong healthy plants should be placed in nursery rows, which may be done thus: The ground being prepared, as for a crop, draw a line and proceed to open a trench, of sufficient breadth and depth to admit the roots freely, leaving the side next the line straight and perpendicular. Having assorted the plants, and cut off the bruised, and shortened the tap roots, a man proceeds to place them in the trench, in their proper position, the heel of the plant towards the line, and at the distance of a foot apart; while another man with a spade, or the planter with a gardener's trowel, throws in earth to hold them in their place. The trench is then to be filled, the plants set upright, and tread about them. The other rows are planted in like manner, three feet apart. The ground to be kept clean during the season.

6. After standing two years in nursery, the plants will have acquired a sufficient size to plant out in the ground where they are to stand; and if intended to be grown in hedge, or as bushes, they may be taken earlier, even at two years old, from the seed bed. For hedges plant the same as for nursery rows, at 18 inches, the ground having been previously prepared by an ameliorating crop, as potatoes. The same precautions are necessary with mulberry as with other fruit trees, intended for standards, as to distance in planting. A broad and deep hole partially filled with good surface mold, will always repay for extra labor. When intended to be cultivated as bushes, they may be planted thick, and left untrimmed, so as to occupy the entire ground. The mulberry is generally grown in the latter way in India and some parts of Italy. It facilitates the gathering of the leaves, and affords an earlier product.

The mulberry grows well on almost any soil, and particularly in one that is stony.—Upon poor dry soils it affords the best materials for silk. An ounce of seed will give some thousand plants, and require a bed four feet broad, and forty to fifty feet long.

Although it might be prudent to give the seed sent you to a trusty individual, who would take care of it, and of the plants which it produces, yet as it is designed for general benefit, it would be proper to require a stipulation, that no greater charge should be made for the plants than would afford a liberal remuneration for the labor bestowed in cultivation. And I have it in charge from the Executive Committee to request, that you will advise me, in the communication which you are expected to make in autumn, of the disposition of the seed and the condition of the plants.

J. BUEL,
Corresponding Sec'y.

Albany, March 15, 1832.

From the Gardener's Magazine.

CAUSE AND CURE OF THE AMERICAN BLIGHT—IN ANSWER TO JUDGE BUEL.

SIR—Your respectable correspondent, Jesse Buel, Esq. treating of trees and their diseases, solicits information respecting the causes of these diseases and their cures.—He says—"We have lost many of our pear trees, by what is termed the blight." Now, what our English gardeners describe as the "American blight," and which here particularly affects apple and pear trees, is evidently the larvæ of some insect, enveloped in a substance like white cotton; but which larvæ, I suspect, are the consequence and not the cause of the disease he writes upon; that is, I believe the blight never fixes, except upon parts of the tree where the sap has exuded through or under the bark, or where the tree has been cut or bruised, and has put on the appearance he describes, viz: "The bark becomes dead in irregular blotches, contracts, and ultimately separates from the wood." He says farther, "any thing you can offer on the subject of the preceding remarks, will be particularly interesting to your American readers." This leads me to mention, that about twenty-five years since, I planted on the east border of my garden, which was newly-raised land, a row of apple and pear trees, chiefly the former; and found that they all soon became affected with the disease above described. The subsoil being, particularly in winter, a morass, I planted the trees as high as possible; but some plants of the same kind, and from the same nursery, planted in another and drier situation, being exempt from the disease, I considered that the other trees had become infected, from the absorption of the roots of too much moisture. To obviate this, I planted within three or four feet of them a row of willow stakes, which soon became bushes and now are trees. I could in a short time trace the roots of these willows completely under the fruit trees, and as thick, generally, as a mat. I began, consequently, to fear that they would ultimately destroy them; but I was agreeably surprised by finding, from the period the roots became intermixed with those of the apple and pear trees, that this disease in the fruit trees gradually, and I may say, entirely disappeared; and for the last twenty years they have borne plenty of fine fruit. Now, as Judge Buel considers his trees to be thus diseased, from the elaborated sap, and to be most prejudiced in wet seasons, I think I am justified in supposing we both allude to the same disease, and I shall be happy if the remedial hint here given, should prove successful in America.

ROBERT CAMELL, M. D.
Bungay, Sept. 20, 1831.

From the New England Farmer.

DWARF FRUIT TREES.

MR. FESSENDEN—Observing in your No. 31 some queries respecting dwarf fruit trees, this may inform that I have seen a garden bordered with dwarf fruit trees, perhaps none taller than than two and a half feet; the tops spreading very wide, and well loaded with apples, pears, and peaches, many touching the ground. The gentleman who planted them being dead, I obtained no account how the dwarfing was effected.

I have since been informed, through a channel worthy of credit, that the mode of making such dwarf trees is very simple and easy. On the limbs of fruit trees there are what I call forked twigs, (fruit spurs,) say two or three inches long, that bear fruit.—Take and graft them into a piece of root; put on the wax, and plant it in the garden, and it will grow into a dwarf fruit tree.

I have only tried one experiment, by setting such a forked twig in an apple stock. It grows slowly enough for a dwarf tree and produced apples. I am now too aged, feeble and trembling with the palsy to graft any more. Respectfully,

SAMUEL PRESTON.
Stockport, Pa. March 3, 1832.

Potatoes Planted Whole.—A writer in the Gardener's Magazine for Dec. 1831, states, "I quite agree with Mr. T. A. Knight, in planting potatoes whole. As a testimony, I will state an experiment of mine: I planted four potatoe slips, containing two eyes in each; and four, the crowns containing, perhaps, four or five eyes each; four small whole ones; four large whole ones. The produce of the first four roots weighed eight pounds; of the second four, eleven pounds; that of the third four, sixteen pounds. I think this will make it clear to any one, that the reverse of what is generally followed ought to be practised, namely, to plant crowns or whole potatoes in lieu of a plant with two eyes. This is even the second trial I have made, and found it the same; but I was not so particular in the first experiment as in the second, having determined by my eye that the difference was so obvious. This is of the greatest importance to the agriculturist. If it holds good for an acre, what a difference of produce! The difference of a little extra seed bears no comparison to the extra produce; and besides, the labor of cutting is saved.

Salt for Peach Trees.—An intelligent farmer of Bushwick, assures us that the application of *common salt* to the roots of his peach trees has had a good effect, in keeping the miller from depositing its eggs on the bark, and promoting the growth and the fruit of the tree.—*L. I. Star.*

NOTICE.

BY order of the Directors of the Rochester Canal and Rail Road Company, the Stockholders are hereby required to pay ten per cent. on the capital stock of said Company, to A. M. Schermerhorn, Esq. Treasurer of said Company, on the 8th day of May next—a further sum of ten per cent. on the 23d day of May next—also ten per cent. on the 6th day of June next.

ap10-a1tr1tf1t E. B. STRONG, Sec'y.

TO A BUTTERFLY.

By Wordsworth.

Stay near me—do not take thy flight;
A little longer stay in sight:
Much converse do I find in thee,
Historian of my infancy!
Float near me; do not yet depart:
Dead times revive in thee:
Thou bring'st, gay creature as thou art,
A solemn image to my heart,
My father's family!
Oh! pleasant, pleasant were the days,
The time, when, in our childish plays,
My sister Emeline and I
Together chased the butterfly!
A very hunter did I rush
Upon the prey, with leaps and springs
I followed on from brake to bush;
But she, God love her! feared to brush
The dust from off its wings.

THE LION AND THE BEAR.

The New Orleans Emporium of the 23d ult. has this article:

We were yesterday informed that on Tuesday last a bear was taken to the Menagerie now exhibiting in this city, and let down into the cage of an African Lion, twenty-four years of age with the belief that it would be immediately torn to pieces. Many people assembled under the awning which encompasses the exhibition, to witness the scene, but all were disappointed and struck with astonishment, for although the Bear, so soon as he had reached the bottom of the cage, placed himself in a fighting position and once or twice flew at the Lion, with the apparent intention of commencing the battle, the lion did not attempt to injure it, but on the contrary, after some time had elapsed, placed his paw on the bear's head as if to express his pity for its helpless situation, and evinced every disposition to cultivate friendship.

Having heard and read much of the Lion's nobleness of disposition, and understanding that the Bear was still in the cage, prompted by curiosity, we visited the Menagarie this morning and saw them together. The manager of the lion tells us that since the bear has been put into the cage, no person has dared to approach it, and that the lion had not slept for three hours, but continues constantly awake to guard his weaker companion from danger. The Lion, says the manager, suffers the Bear to eat of whatever is thrown into the cage, until he has enough, but will scarcely touch food himself.

During the time that we remained, the Lion once or twice walked to the end of the cage, opposite to that at which the bear was lying, and some person motioned his hand towards the Bear, but as soon as the lion saw it, he sprang to the bear and kept his head resting over it for some time—he has so fatigued himself with watching, that as soon as he lies down he falls asleep, but awakes again at the first noise that is made, and springs to the object of his care.

This seems to us astonishing indeed, and will, no doubt, attract the notice of naturalists.

John G. Coster, of the city of New-York, and Erastus Corning, of Albany, have been unanimously nominated trustees of the New-York Life Insurance and Trust Company.

The Wire Worms.—Extract from a communication from Mr. Tallant of Little Houghton, read at the last meeting of the Northamptonshire Farming Society:—

"White mustard seed will protect the grain from the wire-worm; and this fact I have demonstrated perfectly to my own conviction. I first tried the experiment on half an acre, in the centre of a fifty acre field of fallow, which was much subject to the wire-worm. The mustard seed being carried, the whole field was fallowed for wheat, and the half-acre that had been previously cropped with mustard was wholly exempt from the wire-worm; the remainder of the field was much injured. Not only was the half acre thus preserved, but in the spring it was decidedly the most advanced part of the crop; and the prosperous appearance which it presented caused me to repeat the experiment, by sowing three acres more of mustard seed in the worst part of the field of forty-five acres, also much infested with the wire-worm. The remainder of the field was sown with early Dame peas, which, with the mustard seed, was cleared in the same week. The land was then ploughed for wheat, and I had the pleasure of noticing these three acres to be quite free from the worms, and much superior in other respects to the other part of the field, which suffered greatly.—Thus encouraged by these results, I sowed the next year a whole field of forty-two acres, which had never repaid me for nineteen years, in consequence of nearly every crop being destroyed by the wire-worm, and I am warranted in stating that not a single wire-worm could be found the following year, and the crop of wheat throughout, which was reaped last harvest, was superior to any I had grown for 21 years. I am, therefore, under a persuasion, that the wire-worm may be successfully repelled and eradicated, by carefully destroying all weeds and roots, and drilling white mustard seed, and keeping the ground clean by hoeing."—(*Country Times, Sept.* 1831.)

The reason seems to be, that the wire worm cannot eat the roots of the mustard most probably from the acridity, and there being no other roots in the soil for them to live on, and no weeds or other plants than mustard permitted to grow during the season the insects necessarily die of famine.—*Cond.—Gar. Mag.*

Barking the Stems of Fruit Trees and Vines.—My gardener here, who is reputed one of the best fruit-gardeners of the district, and has been more than once strongly pressed to go to the neighborhood of Paris, has, what he declares to be a never failing method of greatly improving the quality and size of the fruit on apple and pear trees and vines. At the winter pruning which is here given in February, he cuts off with his common hooked pruning-knife all the outer bark down to the liber of every tree above eight or ten years old; not so deeply however, with the young as with the old trees. I am assured by some of my neighbors that this man's practice has never failed of being successful; and another Englishman who has tried it assures me that since he had his trees *nettoyed* (such is the term,) he has always had larger and better flavoured fruit.—*Tournay en Belgique, June* 6, 1831.

The practice was brought into notice in Britain by Mr. Lyon of Edinburgh, about fifteen years ago, and is not uncommon in England, with apple and pear trees, and very general with regard to vines under glass.—*Cond.—Ibid.*

Curious fact in the Economy of Bees.—When two or three distinct hives are united in autumn, they are found to consume together scarcely more honey during the winter than each of them would have consumed singly, if left separate. In proof of this remarkable result, the author states a variety of experiments to which he had recourse, and all of which led uniformly to the same conclusion. And, indeed, he shows positively, by a reference to upwards of thirty hives, six of which had their population thus doubled, that the latter do not consume more provisions during winter than a single hive does; and that, so far from the bees suffering from this, the doubled hives generally send forth the earliest and best swarms.—*Arc. of Sci.*

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